

Malden Historic District
(4305 Salines Drive - Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church)
Malden
Kanawha County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-35

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20-MAL
36-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4305 Salines Drive, HABS No. WV-210-35
Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church

Location: 4305 Salines Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owner: Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church Trustees, c/o The
Reverend John R. Dodd, 4412 Malden Drive, Malden, West
Virginia 25306.

Present Use: Place of worship

Significance: This is the oldest church structure in Malden and is one of
the earliest Presbyterian churches in the Kanawha Valley.
It was built in 1840 to house a congregation established
circa 1819. The name of the church preserves a former name
of the Malden community, Kanawha Salines, which had derived
from the production of salt, a major early nineteenth-
century industry in the area. The building is rated as one
of three pivotal structures in the Malden Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1840. Sunday School added in 1935.
2. Architect: Colonel David Ruffner, "to his own personal satisfaction."
3. Original and subsequent owners: The property was originally owned by David Ruffner. Ruffner's will dated March 13, 1835, and probated on March 13, 1843, devised the property to the Presbyterian Church or such trustees as were appointed for the purpose of a Presbyterian Church or house of worship. The lot was to be 132 feet by 120 feet.

The following men were appointed trustees of the Presbyterian Church: Lewis Ruffner, Sr., Richard E. Putney, Moses Norton, Dr. John Parks and Charles C. Lewis. A suit was filed in 1858 on behalf of the Andrew Donnally heirs against the David Ruffner heirs concerning property owned by Donnally and Ruffner. A map was made, and it was discovered that the lot on which the church stands was not the property devised to the Presbyterian Church by David Ruffner. The property devised to the Presbyterian Church was conveyed to C. F. Walker by deed of record in Deed Book 25 at page 268. A deed of record in Deed Book 25 at page 268 conveyed the property where the church now stands to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church in 1868.

4. Alterations and additions: A large Sunday School building was added to the rear in 1935, making a T-shaped plan. The picket fence was restored in 1960, a gift of C. C. Dickinson.

Roof replacements have been necessary from time to time, and heating and lighting facilities have been modernized.

In 1951-1952 extensive renovation of the sanctuary was required to save the building. Installation of supporting steel for the walls allowed the removal of a large center pillar directly in front of the pulpit, and the floor was replaced over a concrete base to strengthen its foundation. The choir loft and pulpit areas were enlarged, lighting was improved, and inside shutters similar to the original ones, which had long been gone, were installed at the windows. Some original pews are now being used in the Sunday School rooms.

B. Historical Context:

Colonel David Ruffner, son of the pioneer Joseph Ruffner and one-time resident of Fort Lee in Charlestown, was a man of strong religious feeling and one whose actions supported his beliefs. He was apparently the leading spirit in establishing the Presbyterian Church in the Kanawha Valley, contributing not only his land but also his means for the erection of more than one church building.

Not only was Colonel Ruffner concerned in the religious development of the community, but he was also interested in its educational progress, and in 1818 conveyed a large plot of ground in Charleston upon which was constructed a preparatory school for young men, called Mercer Academy. It functioned successfully until the beginning of the Civil War, when all such schools were bereft of students. Later, when the town was shelled by Federal batteries, it was destroyed.

The congregation of the Kanawha Salines Church was established circa 1819, being combined with a number of Charlestonians who later formed a separate congregation. The present-day church building was erected in 1840.

The well-known black educator Booker T. Washington attended church at the Kanawha Salines when he was a young boy growing up in Malden and working for the Ruffners. A slave gallery was provided for blacks at the east end of the sanctuary.

Prepared by Donna Sue White
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey Team
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This simple brick structure has a two-bayed gabled front surmounted by a square louvered belfry with a short pyramidal spire. The brick is laid up in Flemish bond, and all trim is painted white. This very restrained late Federal church has two sets of paired entrance doors and six-over-six-light sash. The large brick hip-roofed Sunday School building extending laterally behind the 1840 church dates from 1935.
2. Condition of fabric: Well maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The original portion of the church is two bays wide and three bays deep and measures approximately 36'-4" in width and 45'-4" in depth. The height of the extreme point of the steeple above grade at the front of the original portion is approximately 50'-0". If the newer addition is considered, the over-all dimensions become approximately 67'-9" in width and 81'-1" in depth with the height of the steeple apex above grade at the rear of the addition being approximately 55'-0". The original portion consists of a main floor plus a balcony; the addition, of two floors. The original portion consists of a single rectangular block with a gabled roof and a square-plan belfry topped by a pyramidal steeple. The addition is also rectangular in plan but has a simple hip roof.
2. Foundations: The brick walls of both older and newer portions of the building continue beneath grade level, revealing nothing of their foundations.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Exterior walls are of red brick with gray-white mortar. The older portion of the building has been painted red, though this coating is now deteriorating, revealing matching brick colors. On the north and south walls, metal stars adorn the heads of retaining bolts and serve as retaining plates installed to retard lateral wall deflection. Brick pattern for the older portion is Flemish bond while that of the addition is common bond.
4. Structural system, framing: Originally, the older portion was a simple bearing wall structure of solid brick, atop which a wooden-framed gabled roof rested. Within the past twenty years, steel members were introduced within the attic space and within interior pilasters to stabilize the deteriorating building. Steel members in the attic space form a north/south - east/west grid.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: The older portion has two front stoops, each with two steps. Stoops on the addition are of concrete and have four steps each. The new stoops also have metal pipe railings, two inches in diameter.
6. Chimneys: A single chimney at the southwest corner of the older portion remains. It is of brick and is closed by a cap of wood and asphalt shingles.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The older portion has two front entries, each with a pair of four-panel wooden doors. The newer portion has two entries, each with a single wooden door having six lights above three wooden panels. Each of the latter has a fixed transom with six lights.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows in the older portion are double-hung sash, six-over-six units. Hardware still in evidence suggests that shutters did exist at one time, but they no longer are in place. Windows of the newer portion have metal frames and open in the manner of casements. The size of the lights in these metal frames is approximately eight inches in width by twelve inches in height, the number of lights depending on the size of the masonry opening.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The gable roof of the older portion as well as the pyramidal steeple atop the belfry plus the hip roof of the newer portion are covered with green asphalt shingles. On the belfry, these shingles extend vertically to the ridgecap of the roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Except on the east front, the cornices and eaves are of relatively simple wooden construction, with the following variety of moldings: cavetto, ovolo and cyma recta.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: The only tower structure is the square-plan belfry at the east end of the roof on the older portion. This belfry has louvered sides and is topped by a pyramidal steeple, the lower portion of which is of a very gentle slope, while the top portion has an appreciably steeper pitch.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The older portion consists of a double-aisled sanctuary, at the west end of which are two raised platforms. The lower platform is for the pulpit; the upper, for the choir. The upper platform is separated from the congregational seating area and from the lower platform by a low wooden wall atop which is a low curtain rail. At the east end of the sanctuary, a shallow balcony spans the width of the building, being approached by a stair at the north end. Seating for the congregation on the main level of the sanctuary consists of fixed pews; no fixed seating occurs in the balcony. The interior of the newer portion of the building consists of a collection of classroom and support spaces.
2. Stairways: The major stair in the older portion is that connecting the balcony with the main level of the sanctuary. Minor flights of steps at north and south ends of the two platforms lead down to the same main sanctuary level. Two flights of stairs occur in the newer portion of the building to connect upper and lower floors.
3. Flooring: Floor surfaces in the older portion are surfaced with squares of wooden parquet flooring. While the parguet is visible beneath fixed seating, other more heavily traveled areas are covered with carpet. Floors in the newer portion of the church are generally carpeted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls in the older portion are of painted, sand-finished plaster above the wainscot level. The wainscot is of varnished, beaded boards arranged vertically along the wall in alternating widths of 2-1/2" and 3-1/2". The wainscot is approximately 2'-6" in height above the finished floor level. The ceiling in the older portion is of painted plaster. Walls in the newer portion are of painted plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: In the sanctuary, the interiors of the entrance doors exhibit the same four-panel distribution of elements as on the exterior. The two doors at the western end of the sanctuary are two-panel doors.
6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinet work: In addition to the wainscot, the interior includes such decorative features as wooden molding on the low wall at the choir platform, spindle balusters in the balcony railing, and a decorative cornice around the ceiling perimeter. The interior cornice is somewhat

more elaborate and carefully executed than that on the exterior, the molding strips being more varied in their relative widths and the whole projecting further from the vertical wall surface. Corresponding with the locations of wall retaining bolts on the exterior are interior pilasters which are undecorated along their lengths. At each window are louvered shutters, each sash being spanned by six panels of the same height as the sash.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The older portion of the church is a simple rectangle whose principal axis runs east/west. The principal axis of the addition runs north/south.
2. Historic landscape design: The site is, at present, free of landscape design features of note. But it has been reported that two buildings, a study and a lodge hall, were located east of the older portion of the church within the present boundaries of the site. The gate at the front of the site is reported to have been installed in the recent past.
3. Outbuildings: The only structures not attached to the church are two small masonry features. One is a concrete block enclosure used for the burning of rubbish. The other is a barbecue pit located in the extreme northeast corner of the site.

Prepared by James Murray Howard
Project Supervisor
Historic American Building Survey
June 1979

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Old Views: There is an abundance of old photographs of the church on the back walls of the church hallway. Photographs are on file at the Department of Archives and History in the State Capitol Complex, Charleston, W. Va. Numerous old photographs are in the private collections of several residents of Malden.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

"A Look Backwards," Third Period Advanced English 12, DuPont High School, 1975-76, page 14.

Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records.

Deed Book 25 at page 268.

b. Secondary and published sources:

History of the Presbytery of Kanawha, 1895-1956.
Charleston, West Virginia: Jarret Printing Co., 1956,
pages 72-75.

Woods, Ruth Dayton. Pioneers and their Homes on Upper
Kanawha, West Virginia. Charleston, West Virginia; West
Virginia Publishing Co., 1947, pages 197-202.

"David Ruffner Built Church Ending 100th Year at Malden,"
Charleston Gazette, October 6, 1940.

c. Interviews:

Mr. and Mrs. Summers Dunbar, 63 Cloverleaf Circle, Malden,
W. Va. (Active members of the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian
Church as well as Church Historians.)

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.